

# AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY

195 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

AREA CODE 212 393-4383

K. P. WOOD  
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT

August 15, 1968

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Stanford Medical Center  
Palo Alto, California 94304

Dear Sir:

① Mr. Romnes has asked me to reply to your recent letter. And, before answering your questions, let me congratulate you--ten years after the fact--for your research in genetics leading to the Nobel Prize.

With respect to your inquiry about a "technical brief" detailing our "concerns about the unrestrained connection of customer-owned apparatus to the telephone system," I have attached the testimony of Mr. Williamson in the Carterfone case before the Federal Communications Commission. That is the case referred to in the Wall Street Journal article you sent. Only the Carterfone device was at issue.

Our Petition for Reconsideration, also attached, makes clear that the evidence of record was limited to the issues of Carterfone (see page 10ff).

The kinds of problems we see in the FCC's Carterfone decision are sketched in the Petition. Mr. Williamson's testimony describes something of the complex interrelationship required of the telephone system. His testimony, particularly pages 26-27 and 33-34, recognizes the sensitiveness of customers to less than good quality long distance service. And I regret the quality of the calls to which you referred. I suggest, however, as do the testimony and Petition, that verifiable complaints with responsibility assigned would become more difficult

to determine under an "unrestrained connection of customer apparatus." We believe there is no satisfactory method in which tariffs could detail all the requirements to ensure good service, and we see no practical means of ensuring that enumerated specifications would be carried out.

We intend to give good service to all telephone customers. We have that responsibility. Our belief that we would be weakened in our ability to carry out that responsibility is the reason for our Petition for Reconsideration.

② This reply may represent more "paper" than you anticipated, but I thought such text might be more useful.

Sincerely,

K.P. Wood

Attachments

① Thank you.

During the last 10 years I have been intensely interested in various aspects of human communication, and then more specifically in the integration of intellectual capacities at diverse university centers through computer interconnection. I assume your comment does entail some reaction (I do not say negative) to my involvement in such issues seemingly remote from genetics so I will document them to some extent.

② Not at all, just what I was seeking. I will not mind at all if you send me more as it is generated.  
Thank you very much

Julius Frenkel